

Conference

“The impact of the pandemic on the internationalization of higher education”

Agroecological garden initiative to alleviate the impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown on the International Students at SZIU

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Outline:

- Origin of the initiative's idea
- Evolution of the objectives
- Description of the process
- Results
- Lessons learnt
- Next phase

Origin of the initiative's idea

- Quarantine measures , lockdown.
- Change of plans for the students.
- Uncertainty, anxiety.

International Student's Community Garden

Why an Agroecological garden?

Holistic approach:
Environmental,
social and
economic aspects.



Sustainable gardening practices to grow healthy and diverse food and provide an environment to sustain life.



Community development and social skills.



Economical viability.

Evolution of the objectives

- Offer the students a safe space to spend time outdoors and do hands-on work to **relieve their anxiety and fear** caused by the uncertainty of the lockdown measures.
- Provide **healthy, fresh and affordable food** to the international students who stay at the dormitory during the quarantine time.
- Deliver non-formal **leadership training** to the students.
- **Raise awareness** about social and environmental issues.



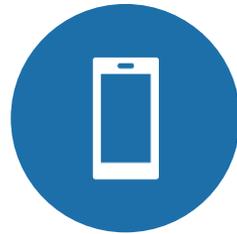
Description of the process



IDEA



FINDING
SPACE



CALL TO
STUDENTS



GARDEN
WORK



HARVEST

April

Finding the
appropriate space

Gödöllő

Institute of Horticulture SZIU
400sqm.







Call to students

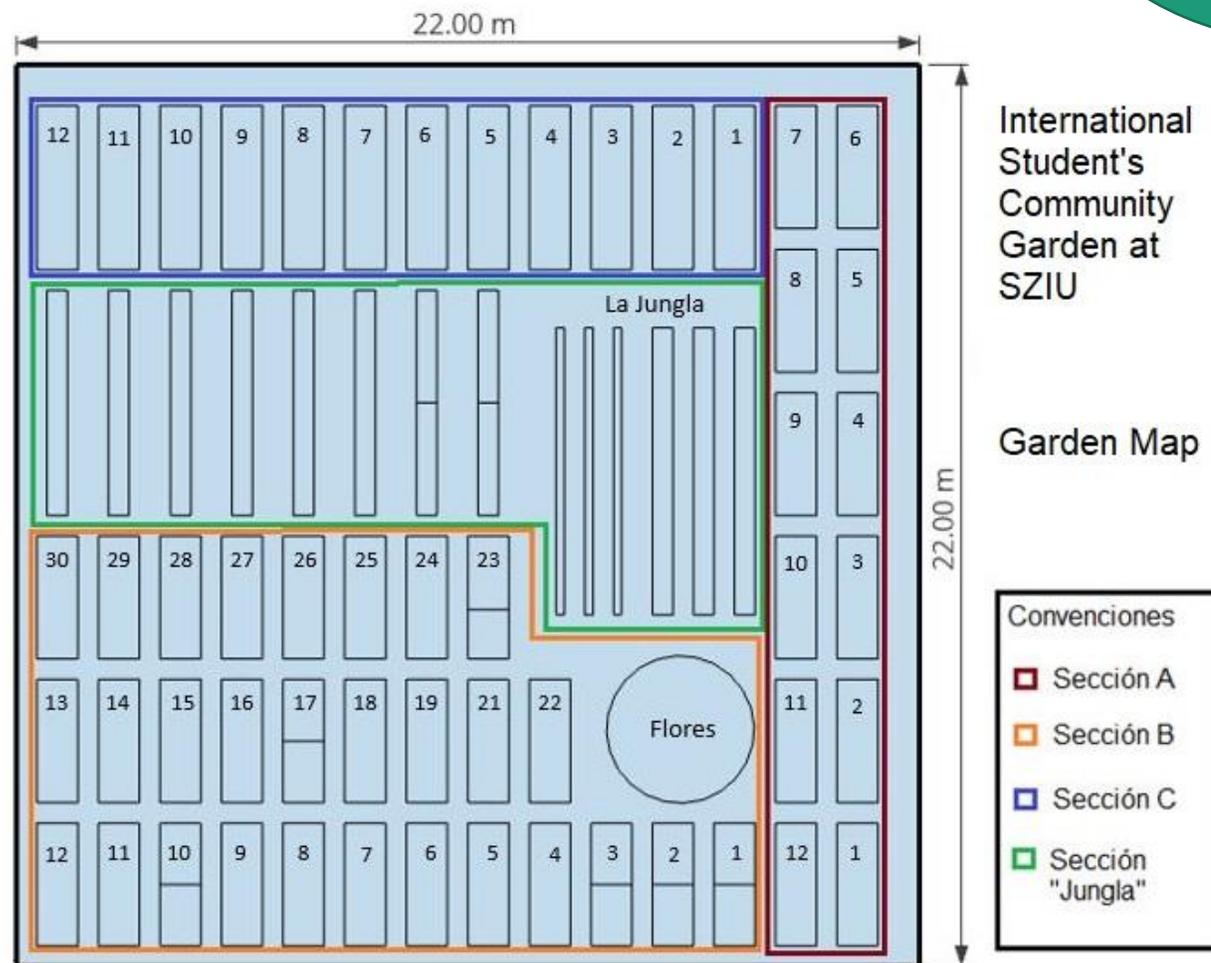
- Social media
- 61 students registered

May

Garden work

Bed design

- 42 beds 1x3 m,
 - 12 beds 1x4 m,
 - 6 rows 0.5x7 m,
 - 8 rows 0.5x5.5 m,
- Flowers and herbs circle
“The Jungle” section





A large green circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Garden work (cont')

- Planting and transplanting
- Weeding
- Building structures
- Watering in turns
- Fiel trip





Planting and transplanting



Weeding



Building structures



Watering in turns



Visit to Holdvilág Social Farm



Harvest

Distribution among the participants

Potato harvest

Ecuadorian Tradition



Hungarian Tradition



Harvest (cont') Community Market



Harvest (cont')

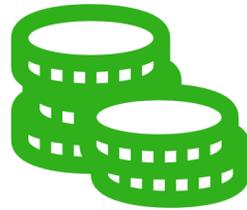
Solidarity Market



Results



Environmental



Economic



Social

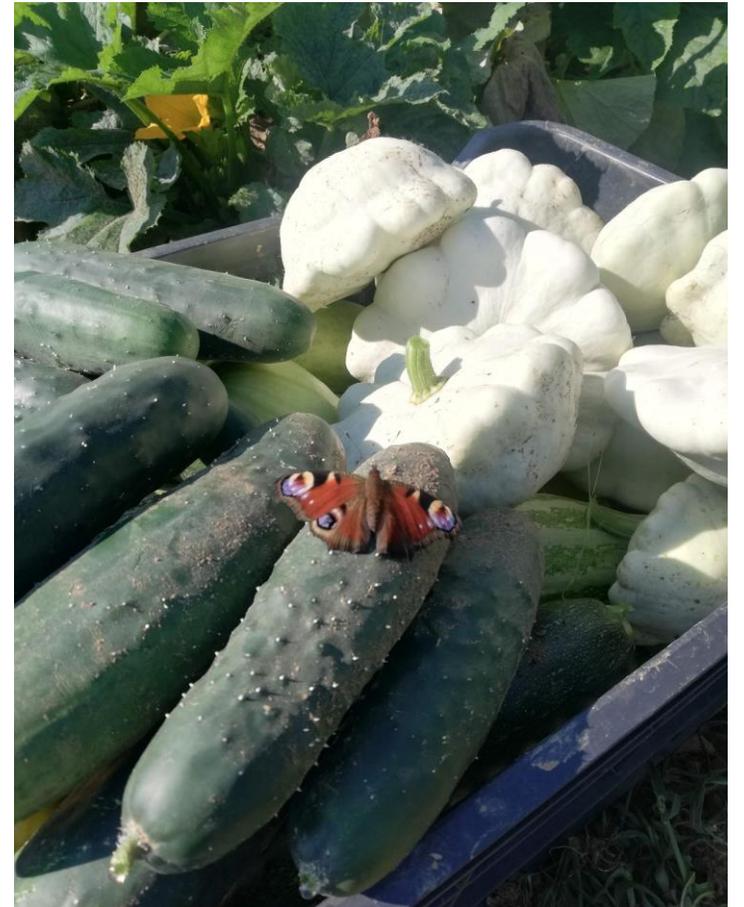
Environmental Results



Clean, low impact and biological agricultural practices.



Diversity: 68 different varieties of 42 species of plants that attracted many pollinators, use of compost for a living soil.



Educated and aware citizens can make better decisions; thus, it has positive impacts on the environment.





Economic Results

In a little more than 4 months the garden produced about 700kg of food with a commercial value of approximately 750000HUF.

Social Results

- Social recognition and connection with the local community. Broadcast in local newspaper.
- Recognition of the university.

...n hivatali idejében... munkatársai is gondot fordítot-
...nem hajóztak ki, a tenger szorít... újak kerülnek majd.
...gyógyászok...
...PORKÓSDI ÖNÉRTÉK...

JÓ KEZDEMÉNYEZÉSEK VÁLSÁG IDEJÉN A SZENT ISTVÁN EGYETEMEN



A Szent István Egyetem nemzetközi hallgatói közül közel négyszázan maradtak a gödöllői kollégiumban a kijárási korlátozások idején, ahol ez idő alatt két példaértékű kezdeményezés is napvilágot látott. A diákok a szír PhD-hallgató, Rajab Ghabour vezetésével önkéntes mozgalmat szerveztek beteg vagy krónikus betegség miatt szigorúbb önkéntes karantén

A másik kezdeményezés, a „Hallgatók Kertje” ötletgazdája a SZIE ecuadori PhD-hallgatója, Fernanda Ramos Díaz. A hallgatók az utazási korlátozások miatt a szokásos nyári utazások helyett nagy valószínűséggel Magyarországon fogják tölteni földet művelésre a Kertészeti tanüzem területén (Gulyásit Zsolt tanüzemvezető hatatos segítségével). Eszközökkel magokkal, palántákkal szintén a Kertészeti Tanüzem, valamint a SZIE Nemzetközi Központja támogatja a projektet.

Visit of Dr. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich, State Secretary for the Stipendium Hungaricum Program



Visit of the chef, author and blogger Zsófia Mautner



Social Results (cont')

- Strengthening of the student's community.
- Sense of belonging and pride.



Social Results (cont')

- Developing social skills such as teamwork, planning, management, leadership style.



Social Results (cont')

- Learning alternative agricultural practices that can be applied back at home as source of food, work and income.



Social Results (cont')

- Access to healthy and diverse food.



Lessons learnt

“Hopefully, at the end I'll be a good farmer and inspiration to others when I get back to my country”

“ I believe the knowledge I will get from the community garden would be helpful to me and my country Tanzania”



Lessons learnt (cont')

"...I want to increase my gardening experience and learn a new agri-technology. Because when I go back home, I want to establish an organic farm as a private source of income"



Lessons learnt (cont')

"Now when I go to the market, I can not see the products in the same way. Now I know how much time and effort they need to grow. Now I value food more and I do not waste"

"When you said that you will grow food without any pesticide, I wanted to see you make it happen. I saw it and now I am a believer"



Next phase

- New location
- Partnership with Holdvilág Social Garden
- Volunteer leadership program with agroecological base.
- Include Hungarian Students.
- Keep the same goal of providing the students in campus fresh, diverse and affordable agroecological food.





Thank you for your kind attention!